Practical Poems

SOME PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM Jn. 10 9: Read the chapter

I. The Blindness of established religion.

1. The Pharisees, because Jesus healed on the Sabbath, regarded him as a sinful man without power from God.

They doubted the healing of the beggar.

Must have parental corroboration. ~~of parents~~

Refused to accept the explanation of the beggar.

"Give God thepraise, this man we know is a sinful man".

2. Can it be possible that established religion today, because of a blindness, fails to see the healing and saving power of God in the fullest possible degree?

a. Blindness due to denominational entrenchment.

b. Blindness due to doctrinal emphasis.

The Four-Fold Gospel condemned.

The healing of the Presbyterian girl Miss Harriet Jordan.

Father once pastor of Presby. Ch. of San Diego.

Read testimonies regarding divine healing.

"By their fruits ye shall judge them."

Social welfare Program condemned bedause not according to church practice.

Perhaps we as individual members of the church are not seeing the fulness of the power of God because of our own blindness.

The criticism of prayer, over radio,

II. The Fear of the Parents for Established Religion.

1. They feared being excluded from the synagogues.

2. Some ministers holding liberal views dare not utter them. — Refer to "Affirmation."

Some church members dare not take active part against ~~anything~~ community evils for fear of business boycot or ruin.

III. Outsiders can often teach us many valuable lessons.

1. The blind beggar.

a. Obeyed the rediculous instruction of Jesus.

b. His straightforward testimony. "The man they call Jesus made some clay and rubbed it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash them. So I wentand when I had washed them I could see."

How we ofter try to explain the power of God away with some vague reasonings or philosophy.

II. 1. c. His courageous stand again the attack of the Pharisees. "If this man were not from God, he could not do anything." Excluded from synogogue

d. His absolute confidence in the man who had healed him.

" 1'. Jesus' question-Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
2'. The answer-"Who is he, sir?. Tell me, that I may believe in him."
3'. Jesus' reply-"You have seen him already, and it is he who is now talking to you."
4'. The beggar's response-"I believe, sir." and he fe fell on his knees before him.

Let us examine the faith of this beggar in Jesus Christ.

1. His was more than a belief in the historical Christ, the man, Jesus, who lived, suffered, and died 2000 yrs. ago. So far as that goes everybody believes. Just as they believe in Julius Caesar, Henry VIII. or George Washington.
But, obviously, noone is affected by morally or spirituall by such belief as that.

2. His was not merely an acceptance of Jesus as the best man that ever lived.
The rich young ruler's approach to Jesus-"Good man, what must I do to inherit eternal life?
"Why ca lest thou me good."

3. The beggar's belief was not merely a recognition of Jesus as the Great Teacher.
The Roman guard sent to arrest Jesus who was teaching in Solomon's Porch, came back empty-handed, saying "Never man spake like this man!"
The strength of the church lies not in its orthodox adherence to its teachings and doctrines.
A man may know his Bible by heart without having the Bibl in his heart at all, or having his life affected by it. No, Jesus was more than The Great Teacher to to this Blind Beggar.

4. Was it the beggar's recognition of Jesus as the Son of God? that constituted his faith in Jesus?
God manifest in the flesh
Will our belief in Jesus as the Son of God who suffered on the cross, tasting death for every man and who arose from the dead and now sits at the right hand of God in eternal glory save us

3 I say that this was not the belief of the beggar and that a man can believe all this and yet not be saved.

An intellectual apprehension of truth, based on incontrovertible evidence, not infrequently leaves the soul as unmoved as are the depths of the sea by the winds that ruffle but the surface of the ocean

4. The beggar's real faith was his personal appropriatin of Jesus for the whole of himself.

"Dost thou believe on the Son of God?", the word thou takes in the whole man- mind, conscience, heart and will. Thus, and thus only, does Christ become a subjective reality, a presence and power within.

The beggar's faith-"My Lord, My life, My sacrifice, My Savior, My all".

vThis is the meaning of Christ's words-"Except ye eat te the flesh and drink the blook of the Son of Man, ye have no life in you." A saving faith lets Jesus enter the whole of our being. And then we are able to say with Paul,"It is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me: for the life which I now live is by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me."

The test of such faith is worship.

Not lip-service, but consecration of time, energy and self to Christ.

A man's good citizenship is not judged by his ability to sing"My Country tis of Thee" but by his whole# hearted accord woth everything that makes our Republic what it is.